

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03
H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MCT-01
EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 NSF-01 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 DODE-00 SSM-03 PM-04 /082 W
-----171621Z 116111 /40

O 171550Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3948
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EG, IS, JO, CGEN
SUBJ: DETAINING OF US OWNED RESEARCH VESSEL ATLANTIS THE SECOND

1. ON AFTERNOON OF 17 APRIL, EMBASSY WAS TELEPHONED FROM SUEZ ADVISING THAT SUBJECT VESSEL, OWNED BY WOODSHOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSITTUTE AND FUNDED BY NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION, WAS BEING DETAINED AT PORT SUEZ BY BOYCOTT OFFICE. ACCORDING TO AMCIT DANNY ELDER, EMPLOYED BY GENEVA'S INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, (IAEA) THAT ON APRIL 12, WHILE ATLANTIS PROCEEDING TO PORT SUEZ FROM GULF OF AQUABA, SHIP DEVELOPED RADAR PROBLEMS AND HAD TO ENTER ISRAELI PORT OF ELAT FOR REPAIRS. PRIOR TO ENTERING ELAT, VESSEL CAPT RADIOED SHIP'S EGYPTIAN AGENT (DAMANHAOUI SHIPPING AGENCY) IN SUEZ ADVISING RADAR PROBLEM AND NEED TO DELAY ARRIVAL IN SUEZ FOR REPAIRS AT ELAT. EGYPTIAN AGENT THEN NOTIFIED SUEZ BOYCOTT OFFICE. AFTER REPAIRS COMPLETED AND DROPPING 10 PASSENGERS IN ELAT, VESSEL ARRIVED OUTSIDE SUEZ AT 0800 14 APRIL, HOWEVER, ELDER SAID WEATHER PROBLEMS DELAYED SHIPS PORT ENTRY. ELDER NOTED THAT 14 IAEA EMPLOYEES, (OF WHICH 7 US CITIS) WERE IN SUEZ WITH
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EQUIPMENT TO BOARD VESSEL, TRAVEL THROUGH CANAL AND PROCEDE TO MONOCO, WHERE TEAM IS BASED. TO ATE, SHIP HAS BEEN DELAYED PORT ENTRY, PASSENGERS HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO DEPART OR BOARD VESSEL, AND VESSEL HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO PROCEDE THROUGH CANAL. DAMANHOUI AGENT HOLDS SHIPS LOG AND HAS TOLD ELDER THAT SUEZ BOYCOTT OFFICE HAS DEFERRED DECISION ON SHIP TO CAIRO BOYCOTT OFFICE. ELDER INDICATED PROBLEM HAS EXISTED

FOR THREE DAYS BUT DELAYED CONTACTING EMBASSY WITH HOPES IT
COULD BE SOLVED IN SUEZ.

2. NAVAL ATTACHE ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY
(SCA) DIR OR OTHER SENIOR SCA OFFICIALS WITHOUT SUCCESS,
BUT WAS ABLE TO TELL MID-LEVEL SCA OFFICIAL WHO ADVISES SHIP
WAS RELEASED AT 1700 HOURS TODAY. WE HAVE CONTACTED SUEZ
AND SPOKE TO A MR BURKE WITH IAEA TEAM. HE WAS NOT AWARE OF
SHIPS RELEASE, STATED THAT ELDER WAS AT SUEZ'S IMMIGRATION
OFFICE BUT WOULD TELEPHONE EMBASSY ONCE HE HAD FURTHER DETAILS
ON SHIPS AND 14 PASSENGERS ATTEMPTING TO BOARD VESSEL. WILL
ADVISE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS RECEIVED.

COMMENT: EMBASSY WAS NOT AWARE ATLANTIS SECOND PLANNED TO STOP
ON SUEZ, NOR WERE WE AWARE AMCIT IAEA EMPLOYEES PLANNED TO
BOARD VESSEL IN SUEZ. SHIP MASTERS MESSAGE TO DEMANHOUI
AGENT INDICATING HE HAD TO PUT INTO ELAT, WHILE UNDERSTAND-
ABLE, HAD THE EFFECT OF BRINGING BOYCOTT AUTHORITIES INTO THE
ACT. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN CAIRO, BUT SUSPECT MFA
MAY HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED AND ADVISED RELEASE. HAD WE BEEN
NOTIFIED EARLIER OF VESSELS DETENTION, WE COULD HAVE INTERCEDED
WITH MFA AND SCA TO OBTAIN EARLIER RELEASE. WHILE WE HAD
BEEN AWARE OF ATLANTIS SECOND SURVEY ACTIVITIES IN GULF OF
AQUABA, WE RECEIVED NO INDICATION OF ANY INTENTION TO SOP
AT EGYPTIAN PORTS. SUCH INFO DESIRABLE WHEN WOODSHOLE VESSEL
HAS HAD ISRAELI SCIENTISTS/OBSERVERS ABOARD DURING HER GULF
OF AQUABA ACTIVITIES. RECOMMEND NSF AND WOODSHOLE BE ADVISED
IN FUTURE PROVIDE FULLER INFO RE PRECISE PORT STOPS OF SURVEY
VESSEL. BY DOING SO WE CAN AVOID INCIDENTS SUCH AS THIS WHICH
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HAS JUST TAKEN PLACE.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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Film Number: D770133-0658
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770449/aaaabqiu.tel
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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